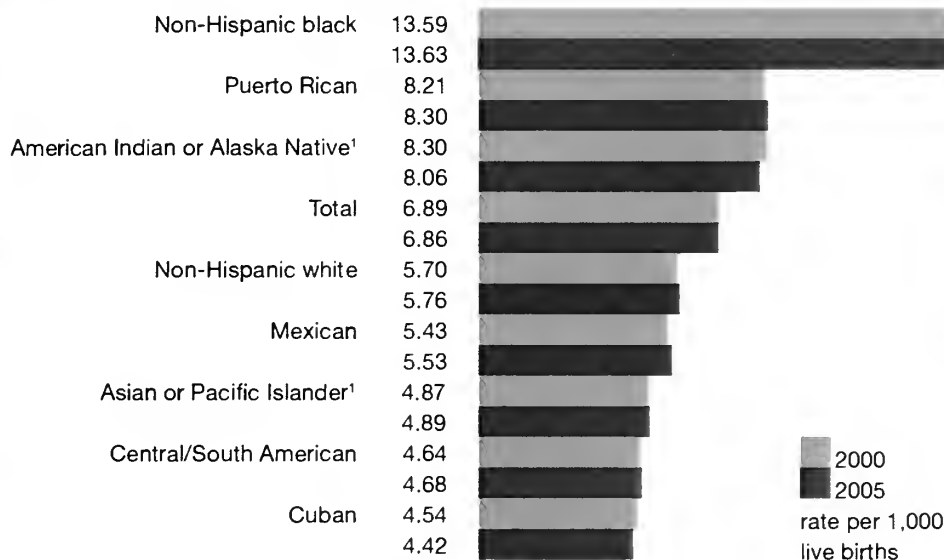


Infant Mortality Data and Statistics



The United States has made substantial improvements in reducing infant mortality rates across all populations, yet disparities still exist and in some populations and parts of the nation the difference in infant mortality rates continues to grow.

Infant mortality rates from highest to lowest by race and ethnicity: United States, 2000 and 2005



1. Includes persons of Hispanic and non-Hispanic origin.

Source: CDC/NCHS, linked birth/infant death data sets, 2000 and 2005

Retrieved September 4, 2009 at: <http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/databriefs/db09.htm>

- In 2005, the overall U.S. infant mortality rate was 6.9 per 1,000 live births.
- The infant mortality rate for African American infants, however, was more than twice the rate for non-Hispanic white infants (13.6 deaths per 1,000 live births for African Americans vs. 5.8 for non-Hispanic whites).
- In American Indian and Alaska Native populations, the death rate is 40 percent higher than in non-Hispanic Whites.
- While infant mortality rates of some Hispanic sub-populations are comparable to that of non-Hispanic whites, others, such as Puerto Ricans have infant mortality rates 1.4 times greater than that of non-Hispanic whites.

The United States ranked 29th in the world in infant mortality in 2004, having steadily fallen since the 1960's when it came in at 12th in the world.

International rankings for infant mortality rates:
Selected Countries, 1960, 2003, 2004

	1960	2003	2004
Japan	19	3	3
Sweden	1	4	4
Spain	28	7	7
France	16	9	9
Germany	22	11	11
Australia	5	17	20
England and Wales	9	25	23
Canada	15	25	24
United States	12	28	29

Source: Health, United States, Table 25, <http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/health/us07.pdf#025>

Although infant mortality rates vary across the nation, African American infant mortality rates are consistently greater than that of non-Hispanic-whites.

In 2005, the District of Columbia had the overall highest infant mortality rate in the nation, 12.2 per 1,000 live births, amongst the African American population the rate was 17.2 and 3.4 per 1,000 live births amongst the white population.



Infant Mortality Rate for White and Black Infants-Top Ten Regions in the U.S. (2003-2005)

	White Infant Mortality Rate (per 1,000 live births)	Black Infant Mortality Rate (per 1,000 live births)
1. District of Columbia	3.4	17.2
2. Delaware	6.5	16.8
3. Michigan	6.2	16.4
4. Wisconsin	5.1	16.4
5. Colorado	5.2	16.3
6. Tennessee	7.0	16.3
7. North Carolina	6.3	15.8
8. Mississippi	7.0	15.6
9. Ohio	6.4	15.5
10 Hawaii	3.9	15.5

Source: National Center for Health Statistics, period linked birth/infant death data. Retrieved September 03, 2009, from www.marchofdimes.com/peristats.

Among major U.S. cities, the following cities have the highest black infant mortality rates.

Memphis is part of Shelby County, Tennessee. In 2007, Shelby County had an infant mortality rate of 17.8 for black infants, the highest rate in the state and a rate more than three times that of white infants (5.8).¹

1. Tennessee Department of Health. Office of Policy, Planning and Assessment. Division of Health Statistics. Number of Infant Deaths with Rates per 1,000 Births, by Race of Mother for Counties of Tennessee, Resident Data, 2007. Available at: http://health.state.tn.us/statistics/PdfFiles/IDRate_07.pdf

Infant Mortality Rate among Black Infants-Top Ten Major U.S. Cities (2003-2005)

	Black Infant Mortality Rate (per 1,000 live births)
1. Portland, Oregon	21.0
2. Colorado Springs, Colorado	20.0
3. Tampa, Florida	19.6
4. Minneapolis, Minnesota	19.5
5. Buffalo, New York	19.3
6. Memphis, Tennessee	18.5
7. Detroit, Michigan	17.7
8. Washington, DC	17.2
9. Milwaukee, Wisconsin	17.1
10 Fort Worth, Texas	16.7

Source: National Center for Health Statistics, period linked birth/infant death data. Retrieved September 4, 2009, from www.marchofdimes.com/peristats.

